



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services

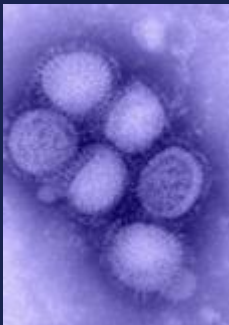
Texas Department of State  
Health Services

# 2016-2017 Influenza Season in Perspective

Loan VanAuker, D-ABMDI, MS

Community Preparedness, Epidemiology  
Division DSHS, Health Service Region 2/3

---



# FLU SURVEILLANCE



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

- Influenza-Like Illness (ILI)
  - Voluntarily submitted from hospitals and doctor's offices
  - Collected and reported by local health departments
  - ESSENCE
- School ILI Absenteeism Data
  - Voluntarily submitted by school nurses
  - Collected and reported by local health departments

**SURVEY MONKEY!**

# FLU SURVEILLANCE



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

- Flu Test Data
  - Voluntarily submitted from hospitals and doctor's offices
  - Collected and reported in local health departments
  - World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) participating laboratories
  - Antigenic characterization and antiviral resistance testing done at CDC laboratory



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

---

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

# 2016-2017 Influenza Season Summary

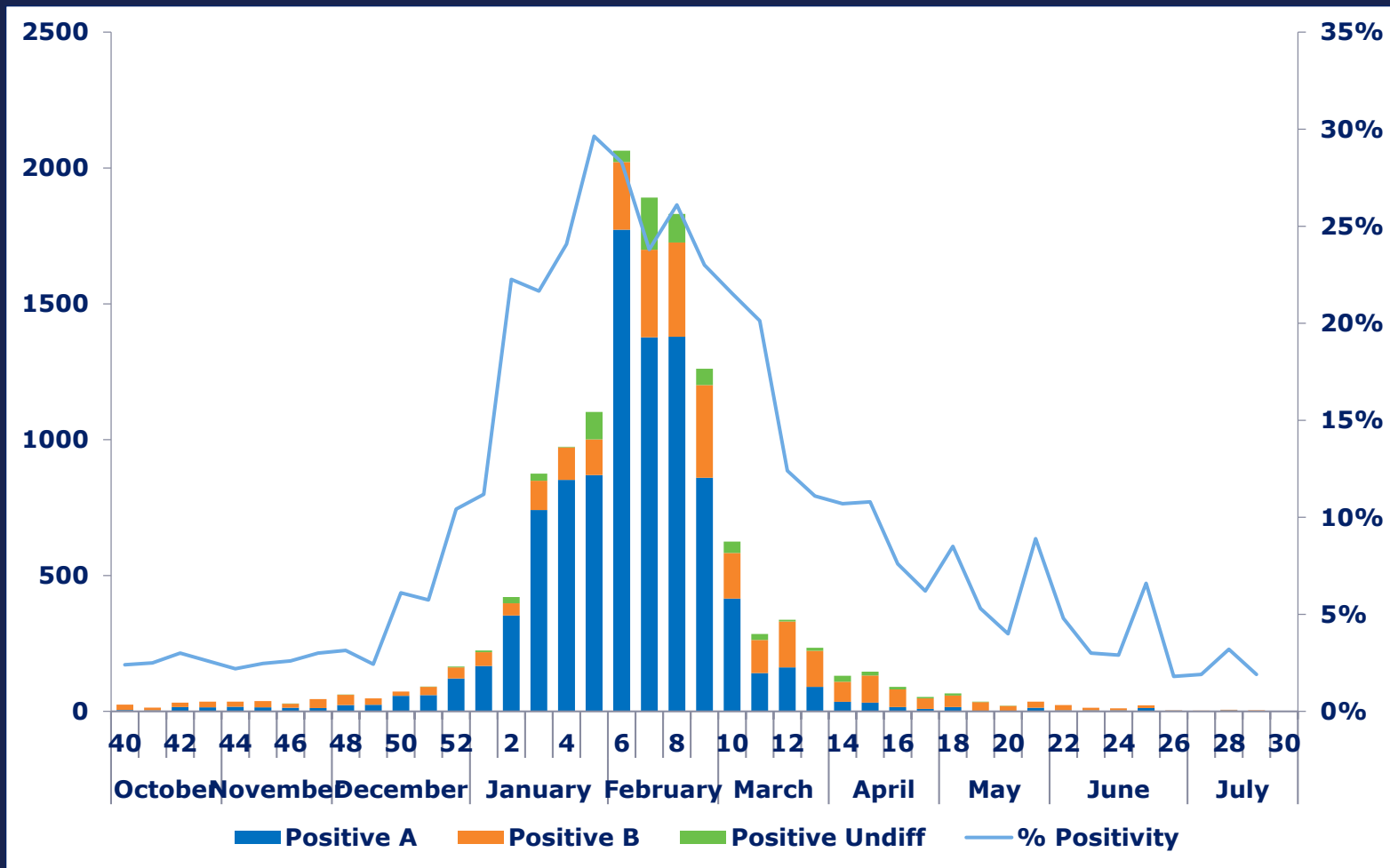


TEXAS

Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

# INFLUENZA TEST RESULTS, TYPE AND OVERALL POSITIVITY FOR HSR 2/3



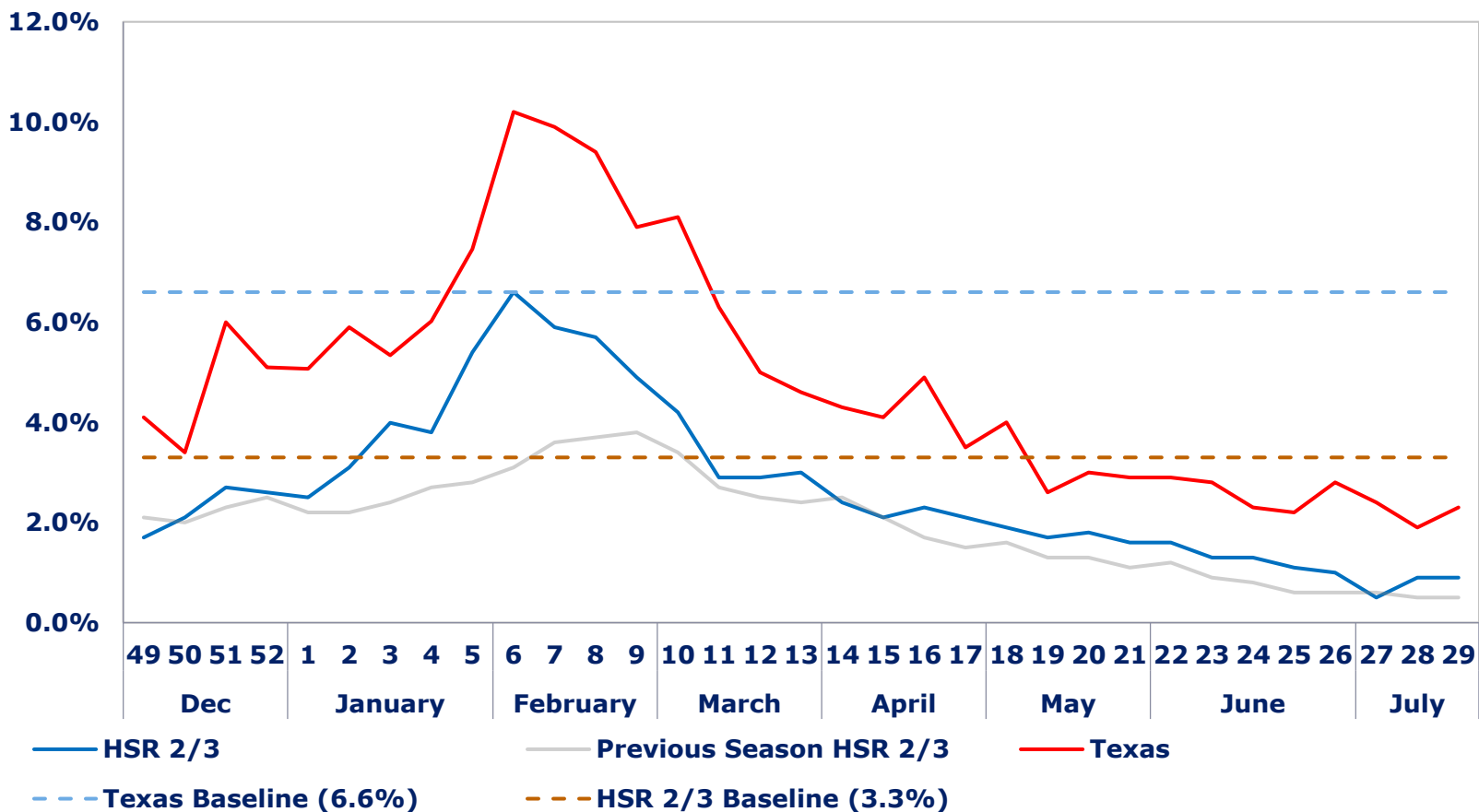


TEXAS

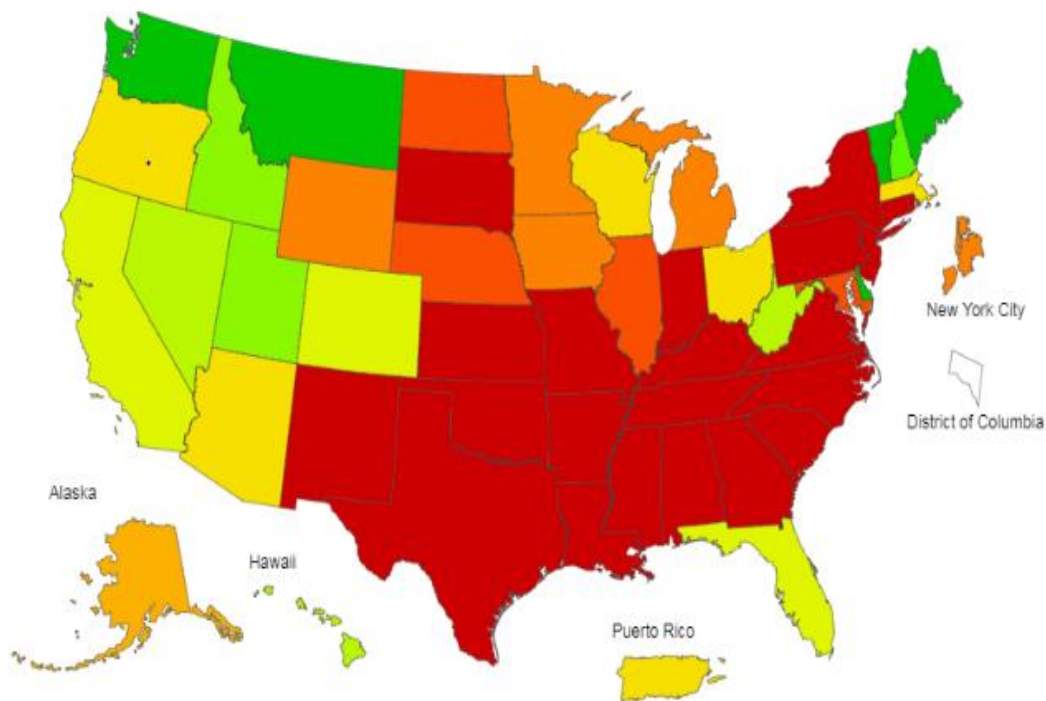
Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

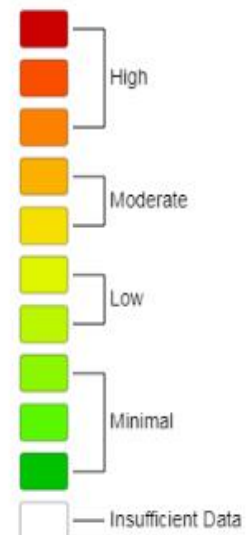
# INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS, PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PROVIDER VISITS FOR HSR 2/3



## 2016-17 Influenza Season Week 6 ending Feb 11, 2017



### ILI Activity Level





TEXAS  
Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

# Long-Term Care Facility (LTCF) Influenza Outbreaks



# FLU OUTBREAKS AT LTCF



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

---

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

- From January 2017 to April 2017, 21 Flu outbreaks were reported at LTCFs in HSR 2/3.
  - Majority during the peak of the flu season in week 6

# Criteria for an Influenza Outbreak at a LTCF



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

- When there is a confirmed or suspected influenza outbreak (2 or more ill residents).
  - One laboratory confirmed case
  - Other cases of respiratory infection in a unit



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

# Testing

- Recommendations and guidance for PCR/subtype testing were provided to each facility.
  - Most facilities were using rapid antigen test
  - Were not testing all patients with ILI
  - Were not aware of laboratory resources such as DSHS and LRNs



# Challenges

- Low vaccination rates for staff members
- Staff members with ILI not excluded from work
  - Exclude ill staff, including volunteers, from work for at least 24 hours after resolution of fever\* (without the use of fever reducing medications). Those with ongoing respiratory symptoms should be evaluated to determine appropriateness of contact with patients. Exclusion for a minimum of 5 days is ideal.
- Family members visiting residents with ILI
- Breakdown of communication during patient transfer from acute care facility to LTCF

# RECOMMENDATIONS TO LTCF STAFF



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

- Patients that exhibit ILI symptoms or confirmed/probable cases were separated from the well
- Cohorting of ill/exposed and well, if space is limited
- Placed on standard and droplet precaution.
- All residents were given Tamiflu as precaution, if possible.
  - Within 48 hours of symptoms onset is recommended
- Signs were placed on the doors and highly populated areas for staff and family members.
- Vaccinations recommendation.
- Educational material provided to staff; such as exclusions for ill employees.



# Droplet Precaution

- Implement droplet precautions in addition to standard precautions for suspected or confirmed cases for 7 days after illness onset or until 24 hours after resolution of fever and respiratory symptoms, *whichever is longer*.
  - Placing resident in private rooms if possible; cohorting suspect cases with one another
  - Wear facemask (surgical or procedure mask) upon entering resident's room and discarding in a waste container when leaving
  - Have the resident wear a mask if they are being transferred, if possible



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services

**Texas Department of State  
Health Services**

# Thank you

**Loan VanAuker, D-ABMDI, MS**  
**Community Preparedness, Epidemiology Division**

**PHONE: 817-264-4706**

**FAX: 817-264-4557**

**EMAIL: [loan.vanauker@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:loan.vanauker@dshs.texas.gov)**